

The Bloomfield Record.

DEVOTED TO LOCAL INTERESTS, GENERAL NEWS, AND THE DIFFUSION OF USEFUL AND ENTERTAINING KNOWLEDGE.

S. M. HOLIN, Editor and Proprietor

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The Japanese Stage.

The great theatre of the Japanese capital is situated in the Asahi suburb. The performance begins at six in the morning, and terminates at eight or nine in the evening. The body of the house, lighted from above, is quadrilateral in form. The basement is divided into small regular squares, which by way of assimilation, we will call the private boxes. In these the Japanese dilettanti ensconce themselves. On the first floor are the public boxes. Above these there is an amphitheatre. The orchestra is located in a stage-box, and the actors reach the stage by means of long planks placed on a level with the private boxes.

The changes of scene are effected by means of a turn-table, like those of our railways, and of which one-half is visible at a time. At a given signal this table revolves, carrying with it all the performers between whom the dialogue seems to be still going on, and the opposite semi-circle in which there are other actors conversing is presented to the public. This arrangement is very convenient for young dramatists, by saving them the bother of entrances and exits. I have seen the turn-table revolve five times in half an hour to transport us alternately from the ground floor to the first floor of a house and back again.

Another strange invention is the Shadow. This is the only way in which I can designate an individual, all clothed in black, and with his head covered by a cowl, who stands behind the actor, following all his movements, and not leaving him an instant. He hands him the properties he needs, and supplies him with a small stool on which to sit unobserved, instead of squatting inconveniently on his heels. It is some time before the eye becomes accustomed to this black figure walking about the stage. But is not everything connected with the latter conventional? If this fact be once admitted, the services rendered by the Shadow are immense. Among them a highly important one is, at night to hold a lighted candle at the end of a long pole under the actor's nose, so as to illuminate his gestures and physiognomy.

With regard to the pieces performed, they are generally long dramas lasting from morning to night, very minute, very realistic, and presenting on the stage national legends founded as a rule, on revenge. The comedies are more simple. The most celebrated one is entitled "Djaveh, the Paper Merchant," and is very similar to "La Dame aux Camélias," by Dumas Junior.—London Musical World.

The practice of patenting imitations of articles of standard excellence is growing in favor at the Patent Office. A patent lately granted is for producing an imitation of Russian sheet iron. This is done by hammering the sheet between anvils and hammers that have indented surfaces, so as to give the sheet a mottled appearance. Another patent is for an imitated Swiss window shade, in which the lace work is imitated by stencils.

Small Talk.

—Crooked chirography is no sign of genius.
—If you wish to sleep well, never take your cares to bed.
—The acrobats of every household—The pitcher and tumbler.
—Cleanliness is next to godliness, and it is soap that is next to charity.
—Twelve miles an hour is the maximum speed in Boston—funerals included.
—Public spirit—Readiness to do anything which is likely to prove lucrative.
—The "Spurgeon Brand" of cigars is the latest novelty in that line.
—The silent reserved man in a social gathering is he whose mouth is full of tobacco juice and no spittoons are handy.
—The first thing that greets the eye upon entering the office of an American consul in Europe is the spittoon. It is the national emblem.
—Mississippi is singularly blessed in some respects. A traveler there says some of the land in that State is so poor that a disturbance could not be raised on it.

—An urchin being rebuked for wearing out his stockings at his toes, replied that it couldn't be helped, "foes wigged, and heels dunt."

—Next in point of meanness to doing a man an injury is to do him a favor, and every now and then remind him of it. "Josh," you're right.

—Thirty years from now old Massachusetts politicians will mention 1874 as "the year in which a Democratic Governor was elected."—N. Y. Mail.

—A young blood at a hotel was requested to pass a dish near him. "Do you mistake me for a waiter?" said the exquisite. "No, sir; I mistook you for a gentleman," was the prompt reply.

—A rich but parsimonious old gentleman on being taken to task for his uncharitableness, said: "True, I don't give much; but if you only knew how it hurts when I give anything, you wouldn't wonder."

—An inquiring man thrust his fingers into a horse's mouth to see how many teeth he had. The horse closed his mouth to see how many fingers the man had. The curiosity of each was fully satisfied.

—J. H. Todd, of Sioux City, played a rather neat little joke on his wife, the other day. While she was unsuspectingly engaged in half soling his winter trousers, he quietly slipped out at the back gate and eloped with a milliner.

—An exciting railway man, who shouts into the ears the names of the stations, and who hears a great deal of complaint because the names are called indistinctly, wants to know if the public expect tenors at \$40 a month.

—Next to a rooster in a rain-storm, or a man with his mother-in-law on his arm, the most wretched-looking thing in the world is a candidate who has just overheard some friends wanting to bet three to one that he won't be elected.

—The President has appointed the 20th of November next as a day of National Thanksgiving. Says a Democratic paper: "If he wants to draw out all the latent gratitude in the country, he ought to change it to the 4th of March, 1877."

—A young man has been arrested in New York for sleeping in a standing position. He would stand on the street for four hours at a stretch, with his eyes closed, and not move a muscle. It is hereditary. His father was a policeman.—Wash. Chron.

—If the times are hard stop your paper, but do not shorten your allowance for tobacco. A good paper in a family is a great comfort to the wife and children, but that is no reason why you should provide them with a weekly luxury at the expense of a daily necessity.

During a secret session of a Chicago Board of Commissioners one of the members was astonished to see an augur-tip projecting through the carpet, and, upon an examination, found that a body of reporters had bored through from the cellar for the purpose of hearing what was said.

Ivy for Indoor Decoration.

I do not know a single plant that will stand so much hard usage as ivy. The only point on which cultivators err, is not keeping the leaves clean. If it be well washed two or three times a week, and the soil well watered, it will grow for weeks, and even years, without danger from change of temperature. A vase not necessarily costly, will answer well for ivy; and this reminds me of an excellent plan of growing it in vases. Long shoots of the ivy were procured, with the young and tender aerial roots very abundant. The lower ends were wrapped in moss, and then some five or six of these were lightly tied together at the bottom, and placed in the vase. The latter was filled to within a few inches of the top with water and the ball of moss suspended therein. Thus managed, the roots soon commence to grow; afterwards the moss need not quite reach the water, as the roots extend down into it, and prove sufficient.

So many very beautiful varieties of ivy are now in cultivation, that by selecting kinds that will form a decided contrast in shape and color, the effect may be materially heightened. The center of the vase may be filled with cut flowers or grasses, or, indeed, nothing would look better than ferns. The ivy may be allowed to hang down over the sides of the vase in graceful festoons or else trained over and around the window, thus making a room appear cheerful and pleasant all the winter through. It is not necessary, and in fact I do not believe that ivy will grow as well in strong light as when it is in a partially shaded position, as it likes shade and an even, cool temperature. I have known instances where ivy has been grown in large tubs and trained up a staircase, thus forming a mass of green foliage from the hall below to the floor above. Planted in a box and run over a low trellis, it makes a lovely window screen even in towns; used in any way as fancy directs, it is unequalled as a house plant.—The Garden.

The American Girl.

A writer in *Arcturion*, speaking of "The American Girl at Home," says "among the sad things of life is certainly to be classed that contempt for simplicity which is ingrained in the heart of the American girl of fashion in very early years. She has drunk copiously of the oxymel of precocious coquetry long before she is capable of appreciating the glory of true fashion and the fun of that efflorescence of passion of which true coquetry consists. We are no especial admirers of children who are constitutionally shamed, who hang their heads before company, and creep back into sensitive silence as soon as an opportunity permits them to do so. But we admire as little the unblushful effrontery of the hot-house child who has been brought up under the bell-glass of society, and has nothing natural left in it excepting the original sin, which crops out in the form of impertinence. It is this abnormal self-possession which is the early characteristic of the American girl. For this she has to thank her mother and the fashionable fools who are her mother's friends. It is inevitable that the adolescence of such a child should be marked with much that is fast and morbid and trenching on the verge of viciousness. In this school she acquires those metropolitan manners, that slang, that swagger, that devil-may-care air, which have rendered her a notoriety wherever she has travelled abroad. The foreigner who comes to this country, and who observes the free-and-easy manners of our youth, and especially of our young girls, is amazed at their boldness and recklessness. We are aware that some bitterness and unfitness have been shown towards the American girl at home; that she has been maliciously represented as a young lady, whose principal amusements are young men, novels, and candies, and whose only exercise consists in promenading Broadway; but we are inclined to take a less unfavorable view of the matter than this. At the same time, it is not possible to deny that there is a grain of truth in the charge, and we are not amazed that a whole wheat-field of accusation should spring from a grain that has been planted and tended with such malicious irrigation. Girls are made, it is true, for something else than to fit into some quiet nook at home, and rest contentedly there during the remainder of life. There are some good, pious souls we know who would have every young woman, rich and poor, educated in the arts of housekeeping. They would have Clorinda, whose father is a billionaire, descend to the kitchen, make bread and pastry, and familiarize herself with the practical working out of all the more common recipes in the cook-book, just as they would exact the same task from Jane Smith, whose papa is not worth anything at all. How far these advisers are in the right it may be difficult to determine; but the fault with the average American girl, who holds neither a very high nor a very low position in life, is that she does not acquaint herself with any of these processes and if, like Henrietta in *Les Femmes Savantes*, she were asked what she saw in marriage to attract, all the answer that she could honestly give would be, 'A husband.' This is sensible, so far as it goes; but we run in danger of seeing very humdrum when we add that if a husband is to be expected to remain all that a young and exacting wife wishes him to be, the kitchen and its correlatives must receive a large share of that wife's attention."

GENERAL SHERMAN.—A Washington correspondent writes: "We have lost our gallant General of the Army and his family, all of whom had won so much reverence and affection from all who knew them here. General Sherman's social abilities are really wonderful. He talks a great deal, but always to the point, and rarely speaks without giving some information of value, yet is never pedantic. Mrs. Sherman is the gentlest and most amiable of women, and while not caring for society always adorns any circle she may enter. The General told me he could not think it right with a young family growing up around him to remain in Washington, where the social demands were so great. 'We are public property here,' he said. 'In St. Louis we shall be a private family.' Just before the wedding, when making a call at his house and witnessing the preparations for the great event, I said to him: 'General Sherman, for once you've surrendered. You've surrendered to the ladies of your family, as women are always paramount at weddings, and men have to do as they are bid.' 'But I haven't surrendered,' the soldier promptly replied; 'when I march in a civil procession I always go where the chief marshal directs me. Mrs. Sherman is chief marshal now, and I shall go where I am told to go, but I'm not surrendering.' It was, indeed, no surrender. The one bow General Sherman made during the church ceremonial was in response to the very graceful salutation of the groom when the father gave up his daughter. General Sherman is not a Catholic and makes no secret of it, and while most Protestants bent their heads in token of respect during the prayers, General Sherman sat bolt upright and made no concession.

Crochet Work.

—A ball-room—The nursery.
—A handy thing for dessert—sand pies.
—How to treat a wife—Treat her to a new dress.
—Can you spell content in three letters?—Y-e-s.
—The best way to rise in a lady's estimation is not by stairs.
—"By the way, Jennie, do you love me?" is the way an Ohio youth put it.
—Iron is a good tonic for debilitated young ladies, but ironing is better.
—The last Parisian rumor threatens the ladies with a revival of the big bonnets of 1834.
—At a recent Covington (Ky.) wedding one of the bridesmaids was grandmother to the bride.
—A mother-in-law is not a heavenly body, but she has been known to eclipse a honeymoon.
—The tight-fitting basque waist with coat-tails, is most in favor for all indoor dresses of every material.
—According to the Philadelphia Chronicle Mrs. Fred Grant's wedding stockings cost \$12 a pair, and she got 'em cheap.

Nothing will sooner tempt a bachelor to abandon his resolution to marry, than to sleep in the adjoining room to a young couple with a colicky baby.

Cloth suits trimmed with fur will be fashionable this winter—nearly all being made in the polonaise style. The cloth suit to correspond will also be in vogue.

Daughter: "Well, to tell the truth, I do not think much of the close of the sermon." Father: "Probably you were thinking more of the clothes of the congregation."

A lady's parasol, which was accidentally dropped into Niagara river, made the grand leap of the falls, and was afterwards picked up unharmed in the Cave of the Winds.

The maddest kind of a woman is she who spends all her hour in arranging her toilet before descending to the parlor on the arrival of a visitor who proves to be a book agent.

One reason why female telegraph operators are not numerous is because if one of them wanted to go to a ball she'd get up and go, even if the President's message was coming over the wires.

An attempt was to have been made last week to get up another woman's crusade in Cleveland, but three or four of the leaders were disappointed about their fall bonnets, and the affair didn't come off.

A young lady and gentleman, aged respectively 12 and 18 years, were married at Goultdown, Mich., last week. When last seen they were quarreling over a pound of mixed candies, and throwing out vague intimations of a divorce.

Prison architecture has naturally received much attention from the benevolent, and more from those not so charitable, as to favor easy jail-breaking. At a place called Pine West, said to be somewhere in South Carolina, they have a calaboose built upon an improved principle. Windows and doors are entirely dispensed with. The prisoners are hoisted outside by means of a rope and dropped in from the top. Once in it is evident that they must stay in a place so wonderfully efficient in its repressive facilities. A captive may have kind friends outside willing to aid him, but what friend can secretly bring a derrick and rope into the prison; and if he could, how or by whom is it to be worked? We shouldn't wonder if the no-door and drop system were generally adopted.

Vanpelt—who abandoned liquor selling to join the Ohio "Crusaders"—has returned to his old business, since the "Tidal Wave" swept over that State, a few weeks since. The following letter, which is published in the Cincinnati papers, tells the story:

WILMINGTON, O., Oct. 26, 1874.
Gambrinus Stock Co., Cin., O.
Sir:—I start again in business and would like to sell your beer. Please ship 6 Doz. Bottles of Beer. I will soon settle our old account. I shall start slow but have a good Business Place here.
Yours,
J. C. VANPELT.

WILLIAM COLFAX, DEALER IN DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, Grain, Feed, &c.

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